

Memorial will serve as a place to gather, remember, and inspire. It is a memorial designed with the desire to engage the community and educate future generations on the vision, values, and heroic efforts of the Greatest Generation."

The organization chose Royal Oak as the location for the memorial because of its central location in the heart of Southeast Michigan, and with the strong support of the City of Royal Oak to host the memorial at Memorial Park on Woodward Avenue and Thirteen Mile Road. The memorial has been designed to be educational and interactive and as a center of community activities as well as serving as a place for contemplation and remembrance.

This week, after fifteen years of work, ground will be broken for the construction of this important tribute to a defining point in history and to the vital contributions millions of Americans made to the essential cause of winning World War II. So many people have played important roles in guiding this project to this significant day, and it would be impossible to name all of them. But I would like to recognize the Board of Directors of the Michigan World War II Legacy Memorial for their efforts: President John Maten, Vice-President Chris Graveline, Secretary Kim Jones, Treasurer J. Michael Mastantuono; board members Debi Hollis, Russell Levine, Judy Maten, Ryan Friedrichs and Molly Gale; and Honorary Director Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson who served in the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. I would also like to recognize two members of the board who sadly passed away before this occasion: Michael Cameron and former Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the groundbreaking of the Michigan World War II Legacy Memorial, which I have no doubt will be viewed as a jewel in Southeast Michigan, and in congratulating all those who made vital contributions to this truly momentous occasion.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LOTTERY

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Massachusetts State Lottery as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Since selling its first ticket on March 22, 1972, the Mass Lottery has generated over \$137 billion in revenues, returning over \$29 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These funds have been distributed to all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts as unrestricted local aid, supporting a wide range of initiatives, including public safety, snow removal, road improvements, school staffing and services, programs for seniors, and parks and recreation projects.

The Mass Lottery has awarded over \$96 billion in prizes to its loyal customers. Prize winners have been able to put their winnings toward the purchase of homes, sending their kids to college, opening their own businesses, covering medical expenses and making donations to charitable organizations.

The Mass Lottery has been a valuable source of additional income for thousands of businesses across the state, and collectively the Mass Lottery's retail partners have earned over \$7.8 billion in commissions and bonuses over the last fifty years.

Under the guidance of the Mass Lottery, Charitable Gaming events have given non-profit organizations in Massachusetts opportunities to raise money to support their causes while providing social entertainment in their communities.

Over the last five decades, Mass Lottery employees have worked diligently to build the Mass Lottery into one of the most successful lotteries in the world. In turn, the Mass Lottery has been a valuable employer in the state, offering a wide range of career opportunities with pathways for advancement within the organization.

The Mass Lottery will be commemorating "50 Years of Winning" throughout 2022 by showing its appreciation for the customers, retailers, communities and employees who are a part of its amazing success story.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the Massachusetts State Lottery as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

REMEMBERING ALCEE HASTINGS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one-year anniversary of the passing of Representative Alcee Hastings, a civil rights advocate and active leader of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) for more than twenty years. His work included promoting principled foreign policy, human rights, strengthened democracy across Europe, domestic and international election observations, and diversity and inclusion at all levels of government and foreign policy decision making. Alcee Hastings passed away on April 6, 2021.

As a U.S. Helsinki Commissioner, Rep. Hastings served as Ranking Member, Co-Chairman, and twice as Chairman from 2007–2008 and 2019–2020. He was the first African American Chair of the Commission, and over the full span of his time on the Commission, visited all 57 participating States (pS) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), 11 Asian and Mediterranean OSCE Partners for Co-operation countries, and attended over three dozen meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA).

In addition to holding various leadership positions at the U.S. Helsinki Commission, Alcee Hastings also held offices with the OSCE PA, including Rapporteur of the First Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Vice Chair of the First Committee, Chair of the First Committee, Special Representative of Mediterranean Affairs, Vice President of the OSCE PA, President of the OSCE PA, and President Emeritus of the OSCE PA. Alcee remains the only American to hold the office of President of the 323-member body.

Alcee brought attention to several issues throughout the OSCE region and pushed to legitimize U.S. authority on human rights stand-

ards. He was a staunch opponent of Russian attempts to undermine security and stability in Europe and beyond, holding hearings as Chair on Russia's support for separatists and introducing legislation aiding Georgia following the 2008 invasion by Russia and supporting Ukraine's democratic gains since the 2004 Orange Revolution. He was an outspoken supporter of Europe's largest ethnic minority, the Roma, and he led efforts to address anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish violence in OSCE pS. Alcee was deeply engaged in the Middle East peace process, improving relations with Mediterranean partners, protections for minorities in the Kosovo independence plan, and strengthening democracy and expansion within the European Union. Thanks to his efforts stressing the importance of having election observers monitor U.S. elections, the OSCE PA held its first election observation mission in the U.S. in 2002.

Representative Hastings believed that diversity and inclusion in foreign policy was critical for upholding democratic values. This included equal representation across different racial, ethnic, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious and geographic communities, including youth participation. He held hearings, introduced legislation, supported programs at the State Department and fellowship programs geared towards promoting minority participation, and worked with European partners on initiatives to meet this end.

Alcee Hastings was born in Altamonte Springs, Florida and received his bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and his law degree from Florida A&M University. Prior to serving in government, he tirelessly fought racial injustice as a civil rights lawyer and activist. In 1979, Representative Hastings became the first African American Federal Judge in the State of Florida when President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the bench. When elected to Congress in 1992, he was one of the first three African Americans to represent Florida since the reconstruction era. He has long championed the rights of minorities, women, the elderly, children, and immigrants.

It was an honor to serve with Representative Alcee Hastings in Congress and to have the privilege to work with him on the Helsinki Commission. He was the reason I sought appointment. I am proud to have called him my friend and will be forever grateful to him for introducing me to the Commission on which I now serve as Co-Chairman. He is remembered by all here and at the OSCE PA. His was a life well-lived.

HONORING HAZEL A. WILSON AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hazel Wilson, whom I have named the 2022 Woman of the Year in Solano County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.